

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method for automatically transferring information from a web site displayed on a handheld Internet appliance into a local database in the handheld Internet appliance, the method comprising:

inserting an application program interface in the web site for determining the information to be transferred;

inserting a user interface in the web site for selecting a plurality of options for transferring the information from the first web site into the handheld Internet appliance; and

providing a software plug-in to automatically transfer the information from the web site into the local database in the handheld Internet appliance.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the handheld Internet appliance comprises a wirelessly-enabled personal digital assistant.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the handheld Internet appliance further comprises a plurality of local applications, the plurality of local applications comprising:

an address book application;
a calendar application;
an e-mail application;
a memo pad application;
a to-do list application;
a web browser application;
a word processing application; and
a spreadsheet application.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the local database stores a plurality of data records representing information entered by the user when interacting with a local application in the handheld Internet appliance.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein inserting the user interface in the web site comprises inserting a button in the web site, the button comprising a menu displaying menu options for transferring the information from the web site into the handheld Internet appliance.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the menu options comprise:

an option for saving the information from an already open web site into a local application; and

a plurality of options for launching a second web site displaying content associated with the information from the already open web site.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the local application comprises the address book application and the option for saving the information from the web site comprises saving an address from the web site into the address book application.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein the plurality of options for launching a second web site comprises:

launching a second web site to map an address displayed on an already open web site;

launching a second web site to find driving directions to the address displayed on the already open

web site; and

launching a second web site to find commercial locations nearest to the address displayed on the already open web site.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the software plug-in comprises software routines for:
retrieving the information from the first web site to be saved in the handheld Internet appliance;
formatting the information to be saved according to the local database to which the information is going to be transferred;
loading the formatted information into the local database in the handheld Internet appliance; and
replacing parameters associated with the information on the second web site's URL.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the software plug-in further comprises software routines for:

automatically launching a second local application from an already open first local application in the handheld Internet appliance;

automatically launching a web site from the first local application; and

automatically filling on-line forms of a web site with a data record stored in the local database in the handheld Internet appliance.

11. A system for automatically transferring information from a web site displayed on a handheld Internet appliance into a local database in the handheld Internet appliance, the system comprising:

an application program interface inserted in

the web site for determining the information to be transferred;

a user interface inserted in the web site for selecting a plurality of options for transferring the information from the web site into the handheld Internet appliance; and

a software plug-in to automatically transfer the information from the web site into the local database in the handheld Internet appliance.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein the handheld Internet appliance comprises a wirelessly-enabled personal digital assistant.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the handheld Internet appliance further comprises a plurality of local applications, the plurality of local applications comprising:

- an address book application;
- a calendar application;
- an e-mail application;
- a memo pad application;
- a to-do list application;
- a web browser application;
- a word processing application; and
- a spreadsheet application.

14. The system of claim 11, wherein the local database stores a plurality of data records representing information entered by the user when interacting with a local application in the handheld Internet appliance.

15. The system of claim 11, wherein

inserting the user interface in the web site comprises inserting a button in the web site, the button comprising a menu displaying menu options for transferring the information from the web site into the handheld Internet appliance.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein the menu options comprise:

an option for saving the information from an already open web site into a local application; and

a plurality of options for launching a second web site displaying content associated with the information from the already open web site.

17. The system of claim 11, wherein the local application comprises the address book application and the option for saving the information from the web site comprises saving an address from the web site into the address book application.

18. The system of claim 16, wherein the plurality of options for launching a second web comprises:

launching a second web site to map an address displayed on the first web site;

launching a second web site to find driving directions to the address displayed on the first web site; and

launching a second web site to find commercial locations nearest to the address displayed on the first web site.

19. The system of claim 11, wherein the software plug-in comprises software routines for:

retrieving the information from the first web site to be saved in the handheld Internet appliance;

formatting the information to be saved according to the local database to which the information is going to be transferred;

loading the formatted information into the local database in the handheld Internet appliance; and

replacing parameters associated with the information on the second web site's URL.

20. The system of claim 19, wherein the software plug-in further comprises software routines for:

automatically launching a second local application from an already open first local application in the handheld Internet appliance;

automatically launching a web site from the already open first local application; and

automatically filling on-line forms of a web site with a data record stored in the local database in the handheld Internet appliance.

21. A handheld Internet appliance comprising a plurality of software components for transferring information from a web site into a local database in the handheld Internet appliance, the software components comprising:

an application program interface inserted in the web site for determining the information to be transferred;

a user interface inserted in the web site for selecting a plurality of options for transferring the information from the web site into the handheld Internet appliance; and

a software plug-in to automatically transfer the information from the web site into the local database in the handheld Internet appliance.

22. The handheld Internet appliance of claim 21, wherein the handheld Internet appliance comprises a wirelessly-enabled personal digital assistant.

23. The handheld Internet appliance of claim 22, wherein the handheld Internet appliance further comprises a plurality of local applications, the plurality of local applications comprising:

- an address book application;
- a calendar application;
- an e-mail application;
- a memo pad application;
- a to-do list application;
- a web browser application;
- a word processing application; and
- a spreadsheet application.

24. The handheld Internet appliance of claim 21, wherein the local database stores a plurality of data records representing information entered by the user when interacting with a local application in the handheld Internet appliance.

25. The handheld Internet appliance of claim 21, wherein inserting the user interface in the web site comprises inserting a button in the web site, the button comprising a menu displaying menu options for transferring the information from the web site into the handheld Internet appliance.

26. The handheld Internet appliance of claim 25, wherein the menu options comprise:

- an option for saving the information from an already open web site into a local application; and
- a plurality of options for launching a second web site displaying content associated with the information from the already open web site.

27. The handheld Internet appliance of claim 21, wherein the local application comprises the address book application and the option for saving the information from the first web site comprises saving an address from the first web site into the address book application.

28. The handheld Internet appliance of claim 26, wherein the plurality of options for launching a second web site comprises:

- launching a second web site to map an address displayed on the already open web site;

- launching a second web site to find driving directions to the address displayed on the already open web site; and

- launching a second web site to find commercial locations nearest to the address displayed on the already open web site.

29. The handheld Internet appliance of claim 21, wherein the software plug-in comprises software routines for:

- retrieving the information from the already open web site to be saved in the handheld Internet appliance;

formatting the information to be saved according to the local database to which the information is going to be transferred;

loading the formatted information into the local database in the handheld Internet appliance; and

replacing parameters associated with the information on the second web site's URL.

30. The handheld Internet appliance of claim 29, wherein the software plug-in further comprises software routines for:

automatically launching a second local application from an already open local application in the handheld Internet appliance;

automatically launching a web site from the already open local application; and

automatically filling on-line forms of a web site with a data record stored in the local database in the handheld Internet appliance.